



## New U.S. Minimum Wage Starts March 1; Retail Yet to Be Covered

MARCH 1956						
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**Hundreds More Sign Up  
In Drive at Penna.  
Food Packing Companies**

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**RWDSUers Rally to Aid  
Westinghouse Strike  
As U. S. Mediation Fails**

— See Page 2

Help by the pailful is extended by Steelworkers of Locals 1104 and 2354 at National Tube Co., Lorain, O., to striking Electrical Workers at Westinghouse plant in nearby Mansfield, O. From left, Frank Gail, Marcella Brokaw, Rose Wallace and Frank Renshak. They netted \$2,091.



## 125-Day Nationwide Strike Longest of Modern Times

# Westinghouse Mediation Try Fails

PITTSBURGH—Prospects for settlement of the long Westinghouse strike took a nosedive last week as the government formally withdrew its mediation services. The 125-day strike of 55,000 Electrical Workers now has established a record as the longest nationwide industrial dispute of modern times. IUE's strike has now exceeded the Auto Workers 113-day strike against

General Motors and another Electrical Workers strike—also against Westinghouse—that went 115 days. Both former strike marks were set in 1946.

The AFL-CIO International Union of Electrical Workers immediately charged the action of Federal Mediator John Murray was "forced by the tactics of the Westinghouse Corporation."

IUE said, "The company had been attempting to use the mediation service in this strike as a cloak for its reprehensible efforts to deceive the public."

In a brief statement, Murray said the new talks held this week "have been disappointing."

He said he was "convinced that no useful purpose will be served by my continued participation at this time . . ."

Murray said both sides can now assume "full respective responsibility for the continuance or the settlement" of the strike.

The union said it had been aware that the mediator was "disturbed" over the company's attitude.

IUE Pres. James B. Carey left the strike parley to attend the AFL-CIO Executive Council meetings in Miami Beach where he presented a report of the dispute to fellow union leaders and made a plea for increased support in the long dispute.

"A united labor movement," Carey told the Council, "in existence just two months, has already met its largest challenge and produced its most impressive fruit. The nation-wide Westinghouse strike, almost two months old when the AFL-CIO merger convention concluded, was the challenge."

"The fruit of unity has been the unprecedented support the entire labor movement has given to the strike."

The IUE head maintained the company wanted the dispute settled "not by negotiation, not by mediation, not by arbitration but by starvation."

### Assails Ruthlessness

Management, he continued, "ruthlessly and relentlessly has resolved to break the strike by starving its employees into defeat and surrender. That is the reason why strike assistance to Westinghouse workers must continue."

Westinghouse has "consistently and arrogantly maintained an attitude of the-worker-and-public-be-damned," declared IUE Secretary-Treasurer Al Hartnet and Robert Nellis, chairman of the IUE Westinghouse Conference Board.

They pointed out the company has rejected all offers of fact-finding and arbitration from federal and state legislators, governors, clergymen and civic leaders.

## What Each of Us Can Do

By MAX GREENBERG

President, RWDSU, AFL-CIO

Once again, Westinghouse management has stymied efforts to bring about a settlement in the strike of its 55,000 workers. Once again, this giant company has given evidence that it is out to break the strike, now in its fifth month, and break the union—the International Union of Electrical Workers—in the process.



When a strike lasts 125 days, as the Westinghouse strike has, there's not much drama or excitement left in it. The daily newspapers pay little if any attention to it, unless there's violence on the picket line. As a result, there's a tendency to forget about it or ignore it.

But for 55,000 strikers and their families who are involved in the longest major strike in many years, it's not something they can forget. They continue to walk the picket lines. And they continue to need money for food, clothing, rent, doctor bills and other necessities.

The RWDSU, its locals and their members have done a magnificent job of aiding the Westinghouse strikers. Their response to our call for contributions has been greater than ever before in our union's history. I am extremely proud of the role of our union in meeting this great challenge to the entire labor movement.

But much remains to be done. With every week that goes by, the strikers' needs grow greater, as their own savings and credit are exhausted. That is why I am urging every local to redouble its efforts to raise funds for the Westinghouse strikers. The one thing that can persuade management to come to terms is the knowledge that the labor movement will not let this strike be lost. By giving as much as we possibly can, we'll be doing our share to convince Westinghouse that it must settle.

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rwdsu RECORD



# BIG PA. FOOD PLANT DRIVE BOOMING

WEST CHESTER, Pa.—Four large food packing plants are completely organized and a fifth is well under way in the developing campaign to build a big, powerful local of RWDSU in this area of Pennsylvania, Int'l. Rep. Frank Meloni announced. At two of the plants NLRB elections have been requested, and will come shortly; a third plant is also completely organized and an election will be requested; and still another plant is well under way towards being organized.

## Contributions Mount for Irving Simon Memorial

Contributions for the establishment of a memorial in the name of the late Irving M. Simon, president of the RWDSU from 1948 until his death in September, 1953, have reached a total of \$1,600, it was reported by Exec. Sec. Jack Paley, with a good deal more still to come from many large locals. The funds will be used to endow a room at the New York Cardiac Home in the name of the late RWDSU leader.

The Executive Board of the RWDSU, at its meeting last December, approved a recommendation by Pres. Max Greenberg to raise such a fund to honor the memory of Irving Simon.

Pres. Greenberg informed the Board that the endowment would cost about \$5,000, and urged that every local make a contribution. Many locals have notified the International union that their donations will be forwarded as soon as their membership can take action on the request.

Following is a list of contributions received up to Feb. 14:

<b>Alabama</b>					
Local 441	Birmingham	\$50.00	Local 262	Newark	50.00
Local 453	Gadsden	11.10	<b>New York</b>		
Local 645	Gadsden	9.20	District 65	New York City	500.00
Local 745	Birmingham	8.90	Local 141A	Buffalo	6.70
<b>Georgia</b>			Local 143	Buffalo	8.50
Local 315	Atlanta	30.00	Local 305	Mount Vernon	100.00
<b>Illinois</b>			Local 564	New York City	25.00
Local 17	Rochelle	25.00	Local 853	New York City	40.00
<b>Indiana</b>			Local 923	New York City	150.00
Indiana Joint Board		50.00	Local 1199	New York City	150.00
Local 680	Anderson	2.80	<b>Ohio</b>		
<b>Manitoba</b>			Local 87B	Cleveland	1.50
Local 467	Winnipeg	25.00	Local 94	Marysville	12.80
Local 468	Winnipeg	31.00	<b>Ontario</b>		
Local 560	Winnipeg	2.00	Elmer Raycroft		5.15
Local 650	Winnipeg	10.00	Local 440	Windsor	50.00
<b>Maryland</b>			<b>Pennsylvania</b>		
Local 1414	Cumberland	3.30	Local 228	Bristol	15.00
<b>Massachusetts</b>			Local 437	Scranton	7.40
Local 593	Taunton	25.00	<b>Rhode Island</b>		
<b>Michigan</b>			Local 596A	Providence	5.00
Local 65	Detroit	5.00	<b>Saskatchewan</b>		
Local 815	Battle Creek	25.00	Local 558	Saskatoon	10.00
<b>Missouri</b>			<b>Virginia</b>		
Local 184L	Kansas City	81.50	Local 27A	Newport News	10.00
<b>New Hampshire</b>					
Local 66	Nashua	30.00			
<b>New Jersey</b>					
Local 226	Trenton	25.00			



IRVING SIMON

These rapid-fire developments come on the heels of a smashing NLRB election win at the Brandywine Mushroom Canning Corp. earlier this month, where the vote for RWDSU was 140 to 7.

The two new plants where elections are due are J. B. Swayne Co. and the Kennett Square Co., together employing about 250 workers. Meanwhile, Meloni said, preparations are being made to file for another NLRB election at Grocery Store Products Co., a packer of food specialties employing about 200.

A few miles away, in Coatsville, Pa., Meloni and Int'l Rep. Morris Malmignati, who is assisting in the campaign, reported a "tremendous response" to the campaign at the Keystone plant among the more than 100 employees. An organizing committee has been set up in the

plant, and union leaflets distributed by the organizers and rank and file members from the Concord and Brandywine plants are eagerly taken and read by the Keystone workers. The Concord employees, who are active in the drive, have been members of RWDSU Local 770 for some time.

Meloni said plans are to open a union headquarters in this city, in view of the good potential for a large local of new RWDSUers in this area.

Meanwhile, preparations are under way to negotiate a first contract at the Brandywine plant. Meloni said the workers have already elected a negotiating committee.

## Civil Rights Assembly March 4

NEW YORK CITY—Anticipating a showdown fight for enactment of civil rights legislation in this session of the 84th Congress, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights has issued a call for a national delegate assembly for civil rights in Washington, March 4-6. Roy Wilkins, chairman, announced.

Mr. Wilkins, who is also executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, heads the Leadership Conference composed of 50 national church, labor, fraternal, civic and minority group organizations.

In making the announcement, Mr. Wilkins stressed the need for wide geographical distribution of delegates. "The influence of the assembly on the Congress," he pointed out, "will depend less upon the number of individual delegates in attendance than upon the number of states and congressional districts represented."

The participating organizations were urged to send delegates from as many different congressional districts as possible. The conference anticipates an attendance of about 2,000 delegates. Registration for the assembly is scheduled for Sunday, March 4, at the Willard Hotel in Washington.

Citing the breakdown of "law and order in some parts of the South," the call charged that the "Constitution and the Supreme Court are being flouted openly. Citizens are being denied their constitutional rights and perse-

cuted for demanding them. To permit these violations to continue is to sanction lawlessness and defiance of the Government of the United States."

"It is essential," the call declared, "that Congress enact legislation in this session to safeguard the civil rights of American citizens and the processes of orderly government."

Several RWDSU locals, along with other unions of the AFL-CIO, will send delegates to the Assembly.

## Mourn Death of Harry Paley, Father of RWDSU Officer

NEW YORK CITY—Leaders and members of the RWDSU joined with Exec. Sec. Jack Paley in mourning the death of his father, Harry, on Feb. 18. Mr. Paley, aged 71, died at his home in Brooklyn after a long illness.

Attended by a large number of International and local officers, the funeral services took place at the synagogue of First Bessarabian Congregation, where Mr. Paley had been sexton for many years.

# AFL-CIO Council Acts to Cement Unity

MIAMI BEACH, Fla.—The eyes of the nation were focused on this city during the second and third weeks of February as the first meeting of the 29-member AFL-CIO Executive Council tackled a heavy program aimed at building the effectiveness of the recently merged 15-million member federation. The council sessions were held at the Hotel Monte Carlo here—one of the few hotels in this city which have signed a union contract with the Hotel & Restaurant Workers. A number of AFL-CIO committees were also holding their first organizational meetings in conjunction with the council get-together.

The six top officers of the RWDSU—Pres. Max Greenberg, Sec.-Treas. Alvin E. Heaps, Exec. Sec. Jack Paley and Executive Vice-Presidents Arthur Osman, Alex Bail and Sam Kovenetsky—were here during the week of the meetings, and participated in conferences with leaders of other unions as well as in a mass labor rally attended by 15,000 people in Miami Feb. 10.

The rally, biggest labor meeting ever held in Florida, heard AFL-CIO Pres. George Meany pledge continued efforts to organize the hotel workers and other unorganized employees in this fast-growing area. "The labor movement of the nation is in this fight," he said, "and will stay in it until you win." Meany's pledge was seconded by UAW Pres. Walter P. Reuther.

The hotel strike, which has attained nationwide attention after an original news blackout, received first attention from the council, which appointed a committee to study the situation and make recommendations.

Moving quickly to act on the latest civil rights violation, the Council wired to President Eisenhower protesting against mob rule at the University of Alabama

and demanding an investigation of deprivation of Negroes' rights in Alabama as well as Mississippi.

As part of its economic report, the Council called for a new round of substantial wage increases and welfare ben-

efits this year to expand purchasing power and ward off rising unemployment. A special committee was set up to handle jurisdictional problems arising out of the federation's organizing efforts.

In other actions during the first four

days of its meeting, the executive council:

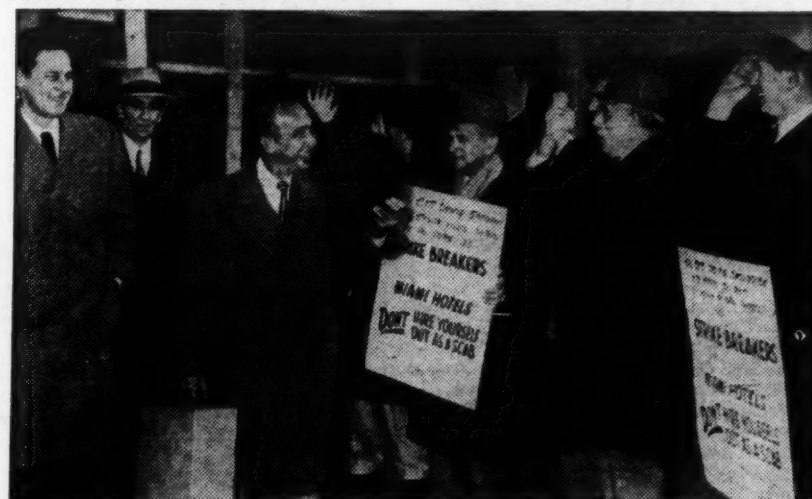
1. Called for defeat of the natural gas bill and, through a statement by Pres. Meany, urged President Eisenhower to veto the measure when it reaches the White House.

2. Urged Senate passage of improving amendments to the social security law which would provide disability payments for totally and permanently disabled persons over 60, lower the women's retirement age to 62, and provide certain disability payments for children.

3. Issued a statement noting that expansion of international commerce and the lessening of trade barriers must be key objectives of the nation's over-all foreign policy.

4. Gave strong endorsement to a new, comprehensive housing bill sponsored by Sen. Lehman (D.-N.Y.) and a number of other senators in order to provide a "far-reaching program" to provide homes within the means of the nation's low-income and middle-income families.

The Committee on Political Education (COPE) held its first meeting on Feb. 8, while the executive council was in recess for the day. It was attended by a majority of council members and a number of other union officers. Pres. Meany, who is COPE's chairman, said the committee would eventually consist of council members plus perhaps "another 25 or 30" union officers.



New York officials of the Hotel and Restaurant Workers, right, congratulate waiters who refused to board plane at Idlewild Airport upon learning that they had been hired to work in struck Miami Beach Hotels. AFL-CIO rally in Miami, Feb. 10, pledged a 'no-out' federation support for organizing drive.



# LABOR NEWS ROUNDUP

## ITU Sponsors 'Town Meeting'

NEW YORK — An important radio debate on State "right-to-work" laws will be broadcast on a nation-wide hook-up on February 19 over the American Broadcasting Company's "Town Meeting of the Air."

The one-hour program will be sponsored by the New York Typographical Union, and will pit Gerhard Van Arkel, former General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board, against Godfrey P. Schmidt, Associate Professor of Constitutional Law at Fordham University. The debate will be sent around the world by the Voice of America and the Armed Forces Radio Service.

Van Arkel, well-known Washington labor attorney, will present the union's viewpoint. Schmidt, recent chairman of the unofficial Citizen's Water-front Commission in the New York dock strike, will defend "right-to-work" legislation.

"Our union's object in sponsoring 'Town Meeting of the Air' is to encourage full and free discussion of radically opposed, strongly-held views on the important topics of our time," said Carl Schlesinger, chairman of the Typographical Union's Educational Program Committee. "We look forward to strong and critical examination of both speakers by the audience during the question period. 'Town Meeting' gives the average citizen a chance to make himself heard by leaders and important men of this nation."

The New York Typographical Union No. 6 (Big Six) had Horace Greeley as its first president in 1850. It is one of the oldest unions in the United States, and the largest local of the parent International Typographical Union. Big Six's president, Francis G. Barrett, presides over the 10,000 members who do the majority of typesetting for the printing trade, New York City's second largest industry.

## Auto Union Wins T-H Case

DETROIT—A politically inspired effort to punish the Auto Workers Union through criminal charges for activities during the 1954 primary and general elections has blown up here.

U.S. District Judge Frank A. Picard threw out of court an indictment charging the UAW with violation of a Taft-Hartley amendment to the Corrupt Practices Laws.

He dismissed the indictment on the ground that expenditure of union funds for television programs on which candidates for political office appeared was not forbidden.

His opinion strongly suggested that had he not felt himself bound by an earlier Supreme Court decision, he might have ruled the pertinent section of the law unconstitutional as an illegal interference with free speech.

UAW officers promptly hailed Picard's decision as vindicating "the right of a democratic union to present its views on candidates and issues to its members and to the public through normal channels of communications."



Drawing by Hank Weber, a Kohler striker

"That's been standing here since April 5, 1954. Nobody wants it until the strike is won."

## Silent on Reds, He's Upheld

The U.S. Court of Appeals has ruled that witnesses before congressional committees cannot be forced to testify about former Communists if the only purpose of their testimony is exposure of ex-party members. The court handed down its ruling by a two-to-one vote, thereby upsetting the conviction in a lower court for "contempt of Congress" of John T. Watkins of Rock Island, Ill., an organizer for the Auto Workers.

Watkins had been convicted of contempt for refusing to tell a House Un-American Activities subcommittee in 1954 whether he had known about 30 persons as Communists 10 years previously. He received a suspended one-year sentence and was ordered to pay a \$500 fine.

In his congressional testimony, Watkins denied he was a Communist but said he had cooperated with the party from 1942 to 1947. He said he had never "carried a Communist Party card" or accepted party discipline.

Watkins refused, however, to "answer any questions with respect to those with whom I associated in the past."

In his majority opinion upholding Watkins' refusal to testify, Chief Judge Henry W. Edgerton declared: "In order to convict, the Government must plead and prove that the questions the witness would not answer were pertinent to an inquiry Congress had authorized. . . . In our opinion, the questions Watkins would not answer are not pertinent to the inquiry authorized. It is very questionable whether exposure of individuals to public contempt or hostility is a 'valid legislative purpose.'"

## Labor Upheld in 3 Cases

WASHINGTON—The United States Supreme Court has handed down three major decisions, all favorable to organized labor.

In two related portal-to-portal cases, the court ruled that butchers could not be required to sharpen their knives on their own time and battery workers should be paid for time spent changing their clothes and taking showers to protect themselves.

At the same time, in a move that may have far-reaching consequences, the court agreed to decide whether states may make their own labor laws in areas which are already covered by the Taft-Hartley Act.

The latter case involves the almost two-year long strike of the United Auto Workers against the Kohler Co. of Sheboygan, Wis. The court will hold hearings later in the term. Specifically, the appeal is from a judgment by the Wisconsin Supreme Court that the UAW has engaged in mass picketing in violation of Wisconsin law, the state's Employment Peace Act.

Ten days after the Kohler strike started, the company complained to the Wisconsin Employment Relations Board that the union was guilty of mass picketing that prevented strikebreakers from entering the plant, or of "obstructing and interfering with the free and uninterrupted use of public roads, streets and highways." This order was upheld by both the Circuit Court of Sheboygan and the State Supreme Court.

The union contends that the National Labor Relations Act preempted jurisdiction in such issues. The Kohler Company, itself, had been found guilty of unfair labor practices under the act by the NLRB before the strike.

### SKILLED JOB

DALLAS, Tex.—When no jobs were available here for applicants, an interviewer for the state employment commission frequently told applicants: "All we have left is a job milking rattlesnakes." One applicant came up with a surprising answer.

That's fine," he told her. "Where is it and how much does it pay? It's just what I've been doing in Florida."

### FARE DECISION

PHILADELPHIA—There comes a time when even his union can't save a man's job.

A trolley operator for the Philadelphia Transportation Co. recently was faced with eight inspectors who said he worked a nice gimmick with his fares: "One for the company and one for me." The Transport Workers Union investigated, too. They found it was true and had no choice but to uphold the discharge.

### BELL STRIKE AFTERMATH

WASHINGTON—In arbitrations arising from the Southern Bell strike case of last year, 63 members of the Communications Workers have been restored to their jobs with back pay ranging from 14 to 36 weeks pay. There are 237 cases in all, the largest arbitration proceedings in the history of labor-management relations.

## what's new in our industry

Allied Stores new Jordan Marsh branch in Miami opened with a splash. The store boasts an over water approach to its back door for customers who arrive in their yachts. \$15 million annual sales is expected, based on opening day business. . . . The volume of dollar sales rolled up by New York City's department stores during January was the second largest in history for that month. . . . A 9.5% gain in January gross sales by Montgomery Ward helped the nation's second largest catalog-chain to regain \$1 billion annual gross volume. . . . Woolworth's reports an increase of 4.1% for January over the like period in 1955. . . . Sweet teeth of children and grown-ups alike have helped the candy industry. Manufacturers and retailers showed a 3% increase in 1955 sales according to an estimate made by the Bureau of Census. . . . Sears, Roebuck in the year just ended topped the \$3 billion mark in net sales for the first time.

Robert Hall Clothes will open simultaneously on March 1, 12 stores in the

Los Angeles area and four in St. Louis. . . . A new \$1 million Lane Bryant store was opened in Atlanta, Ga. . . . Libby, McNeill & Libby has leased 3,726 acres of citrus groves in Lake County, Fla., to supply part of the oranges it processes at its concentrate plant at Ocala, Fla. . . . W. T. Grant will open two new stores this month; its third unit in Tampa, Fla. and one in Potsdam, New York. . . . General Foods erected a distribution center for its grocery products in San Leandro, Calif.

To avoid that quizzical expression on the faces of shoppers who wonder where they can find certain products, supermarket operators will soon have directories placed on their shopping carts. . . . Federated Dept. Stores, the country's second largest chain (Allied is the biggest), has developed a 'revolving credit system'. This enables the customer who goes over his credit limitations to make easy monthly payments. . . . The potential market for food products in 1960 should total \$83 billion in order to keep

up with the United States expanding standard of living according to the J. Walter Thompson Co. . . . Consumers added \$648 million to their installment debt in December, the Federal Reserve Board reported. This was the largest rise in any month since last June.

In the first quarter of its fiscal year ended Jan. 31, Minute Maid Corp. rolled up sales 10% over the comparable period a year earlier. . . . Net sales of International Shoe Co. for the 1955 fiscal year rose 6% to a record \$262,413,803. . . . 7,500 million pounds of frozen foods were sold last year, the National Frozen Food Distributors reported. . . . Some coffee roasters indicated they will follow a two-cent-a-pound increase on vacuum packed coffee initiated by General Foods Corp. . . . Sales of Allied Stores Corp. climbed to a new peak in 1955 with a 7% gain over the previous high. . . . The Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry plans to resume licensing of cotton blouses for export to the United States. . . . The New England

Leather Association reports shoe production in that area totaled a record 216,861,000 pairs in 1955.

About one in every eight persons in the United States took a fling at doing-it-himself last year, spending an average of \$350 in the process according to the Do-It-Yourself Information Bureau. . . . New Robert Hall chain stores will no longer have that factory-like appearance. Modern glass entrances, wood-paneled and soft colored paints will replace the windowless concrete block buildings. . . . Full scale interest, long term planning and financial support that has gone into suburban store development must go into downtown rehabilitation according to the Montreal Advertising and Sales Executive Club. . . . The Fred W. Albrecht Grocery Co. in Akron, Ohio has a new-neighbor greeting organization which consists of hostesses who go to all new families in town offering discounts on popular products.

—Compiled by Rosemarie Da Silva





## Memo from Washington

By KENNETH MEIKLEJOHN  
RWDSU Legislative Representative

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congress has now been in session for more than seven weeks, and in that time has produced next to nothing in the way of legislation in the general interest of the people.

Most of the Senate's time thus far has been spent in debating and finally passing the Harris-Fulbright Natural Gas Bill. This bill was vigorously opposed by labor as the latest give-away measure for the benefit of the oil industry at the expense of millions of consumers of natural gas. Passage of the bill by the Senate sends it to the President, the House having past the same bill by a narrow margin last year. The President is expected to sign the bill, but presumably might be induced to veto it if enough public indignation is brought to bear on him.

Neither the Senate nor the House has done anything as yet in the field of legislation to extend the coverage of the Fair Labor Standards Act to retail and other employees. It is expected, however, that the Labor Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, headed by Senator Paul H. Douglas of Illinois, will hold hearings some time in March. Congressman Graham A. Barden of North Carolina, chairman of the House Committee on Education and Labor, is also reported to have stated that, if his Committee wishes him to do so, he too will schedule hearings before his Committee on these problems.

### Mitchell Flip-Flops

The stage was set last year for consideration of coverage and exemption problems this year. Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell, testifying before the Senate Labor Subcommittee, made specific recommendations (which he later denied he had made) for extending minimum wage coverage to employees of large multi-state enterprises such as chain stores and other businesses that engage to a major extent in activities covered by the Act.

In its report on Senator Douglas' bill to raise the minimum wage to \$1 an hour, the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee took pains to point out that its failure to deal with extension of coverage "is not to be construed as passing judgment on the merits" of this question, and that it planned "to give further study to the question of coverage and exceptions as soon as practicable with a view to developing legislation to be presented to the Congress early in the next session."

Many statements were made on and off the floor in Congress to the effect that, while raising the minimum wage was important, extending coverage was even more important. However, there is a disposition on the part of some Senators and Congressmen, including the Democratic leadership in both Houses, to take the attitude that since the minimum wage was raised last year (though not to go into effect until March 1 of this year), Congress has done all it needs to do to improve the Fair Labor Standards Act for the time being.

This attitude, of course, ignores the fact that, while raising the minimum wage to \$1 an hour will benefit directly some 1,500,000 workers now subject to the Act whose wages are below this figure, it will not benefit at all the 20 million workers who are now outside the Act's protection. These workers, too, are as much entitled to the benefits of the minimum wage provisions of the Act as those now subject to the Act.

The time to enact legislation for this purpose is now, not some time far off in the future. Letters to Sen. Douglas and Rep. Barden will help get early action.

Since Feb. 1, Kenneth Meiklejohn has been serving the RWDSU as legislative representative in Washington. With many years of service in important posts in the U.S. Dept. of Labor and on the staffs of various Congressional committees, Mr. Meiklejohn is especially qualified to comment on legislative development affecting labor.

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## \$1 Minimum in Effect March 1; Retail Coverage Has Yet to Be Won

— AN EDITORIAL —

March 1 will be an important date in the lives of many American workers. On that day the \$1-per-hour minimum wage—fought for by organized labor and enacted by Congress last year—goes into effect. The best estimate of government and labor experts is that institution of the \$1 minimum will bring direct wage increases to 1,500,000 or more workers now earning less than that figure, and boosts for additional millions whose wage levels, though higher, are related to those of the lowest-paid workers.

Despite the fact that retail employees are not covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act, a substantial number of RWDSU members in other industries will benefit from the \$1 minimum on March 1, proving that the RWDSU's extensive campaign for the boost a year ago—and particularly the mobilization of 650 members in Washington last April 19—paid off.

What is likely to happen after March 1? Will the \$1 minimum cause business failures, economic dislocation or loss of jobs, as spokesmen for the employers and the GOP Administration gloomily predicted last year? Not on your life! Far from anticipating a body blow to the U.S. economy after March 1, many experts expect that the \$1 minimum, by increasing purchasing power, will give U.S. industry a shot in the arm and help it regain some of the ground it has lost in recent weeks.

Backing up this proposal is the record of what happened in 1950, when the federal minimum was raised from 40 cents to 75 cents an hour. Those who opposed the increase raised the same cries of doom, claiming that the new minimum would have all kinds of horrible effects, especially on low-wage industries. But in a study of five such industries, the U.S. Dept. of Labor found that "the 75-cent rate had only minor effects on such variables as employment, plant shutdowns, prices, technological change, hiring policies and overtime work."

Today no one would seriously argue that the 75-cent rate hurt the economy during the past six years. Even the Eisenhower Administration had to concede last year that the minimum should be raised to 90 cents an hour, though it fought bitterly against the \$1 rate that Congress finally enacted. But the same tired, shopworn arguments are being raised this year, as in previous years, by the spokesmen for the retail industry which is not covered by the law.

The big retailers, trying to pass themselves off as small, local businesses "like the corner grocery store," argue that retail minimum wages should be left to the states to regulate. Yet in their own states they fight tooth and nail against such legislation. In North Carolina, for example, the merchants fought against a 55-cent state minimum wage for retail employees. Here is an editorial from the Raleigh, N.C. News & Observer expressing that daily's views on this subject:

"Just about the best possible modern example of 'cutting off the nose to spite the face' is the opposition of North Carolina merchants to minimum wages.

"No people would so quickly profit by the increased buying power decent minimum wages would provide. Yet in this state many merchants have opposed the enactment of a state minimum of as low as 55 cents an hour. Now their association secretary is opposing the application of the Federal minimum wage to the mercantile business.

"How much the merchants have profited by the application of Federal minimum wage laws to the workers of other employers in North Carolina nobody can exactly estimate. In opposing such wages for their own employees they are engaged in opposing the program which has blessed them.

"Neither the South nor the merchants of the South will get rich by joining in an effort to keep people poor."

Unfortunately, most daily newspapers in the U.S., which depend heavily on retail advertising revenue, are not as forthright as the Raleigh News & Observer. Not only do they fail to publish such editorials, but for the most part they even play down straight news stories about the efforts of retail employees to win protection under the federal minimum wage laws. As a result, the vast majority of Americans don't even know that retail employees are not covered by the law.

It's up to RWDSU members to let the American people—as well as Congress—know the facts. Here's what can be done to make those facts known: send letters to the editors of your daily newspapers; inform other unions, community organizations, political clubs and religious groups; poll your candidates for local, state and federal office and get them to support extension of coverage; visit, write, phone and wire your Senators and Representatives; begin preparations NOW for another, bigger RWDSU mobilization in Washington this spring.

It will be a tough campaign to win retail minimum wage coverage over the violent opposition of the industry. But it can be won—as last year's successful fight for the \$1 minimum proved—if the union members directly concerned put enough effort and enthusiasm into the fight.



## New York & Northeast

# 6,000 in District 65 Get Automatic Wage Boosts

NEW YORK CITY—Automatic wage increases averaging close to \$3 a week fall due for more than 6,000 members of District 65 during February and the next few months, Organization Dir. Bill Michelson, announced. The automatic increases result from a District policy in its 1955 contract campaign to settle for two years with large wage increases wherever possible.

Meanwhile, the remainder of the union's 30,000 members, whose contracts did not provide for automatic wage boosts are either preparing for wage talks, or are currently involved in various stages of negotiating or arbitrating their contract expirations and reopeners.

## Buffalo Locals Map Organizing Drive

BUFFALO, N.Y.—Steps to open an organizing campaign in this "practically virgin area" were taken at a meeting last month of the Joint Board of Buffalo RWDSU locals, Int'l Rep. Tom Evans reported.

It was decided that the Joint Board would join with the Greater Buffalo CIO Council in the circulation of "prospect cards." Officers, stewards and members of the various locals are expected to cooperate in filling out these cards with prospects for organization.

At an earlier meeting representatives of RWDSU locals in the vicinity of Buffalo elected Evans to the RWDSU's governing body, the General Council. Evans was named to replace Thomas Gorman, who had resigned.

Members of Local 141A, who work at the Electric City Box Co., held their 13th annual dinner at the Donovan Post of the American Legion. The dinner was followed by dancing to the Post orchestra, and speakers including plant manager John Harris and Evans were heard. The affair was emceed by Local 141A Pres. Bee Devine, and arranged by a committee headed by the local treasurer, Anna Aichinger, and Loretta Bodensteiner.

These include 10,000 department store employees at Gimbels, Bloomingdale's, Saks-34th, Namm-Loesers, Nortons and Stern Bros. In the big Bloomingdale department store, negotiations on a contract reopener covering some 2,500 employees have already begun.

The automatic raises round out two-year gains among the 6,000 members ranging from \$5 to \$10 a week. In the big Revlon Cosmetics plant, for example, more than 900 workers in three plants won raises ranging from \$5 to \$9 a week, with boosts of \$4 a week in minimum wages.

As of Feb. 1, in addition to what was received last year, Revlon workers in the skilled and heavy duty categories received \$3 raises, and light factory and unskilled employees received \$2.50 a week increases.

## New York Labor Acts To Support Red Cross

NEW YORK—Representatives of 85 AFL-CIO and unaffiliated unions have organized a Greater New York Labor Committee to seek support from more than one million union members for the Red Cross Campaign for members and funds in March.

Pres. Martin T. Lacey of the Central Trades & Labor Council and Pres. Michael J. Quill, president of the CIO Council and of the Transport Workers, are co-chairmen. Sec.-Treas. Morris Iushewitz of the CIO Council and Sec.-Treas. James C. Quinn of the CTLC are co-secretaries.



\$2,000 CONTRIBUTION for Westinghouse strikers represents funds raised by Westchester County Industrial Union Council, N.Y. Left to right are Council Pres. Edwin Patterson, Joseph Vicinanza, who accepted on behalf of strikers, RWDSU Local 305 Organizer James Vetrano, who serves as Council treasurer, Trustee Leonard Settiducati, Sec. Maurice Cesaro'ti.

## Boslea, New Can Firms Settle With Raises in Massachusetts

LEOMINSTER, Mass.—Contract renewals in two shops in the cities of Malden and Everett were won last month, providing wage increases and a number of other improvements affecting a total of more than 150 RWDSUers, Regional Dir. Tom Leone reported.

In Everett the members of Local 585A, who work at the Boslea Co., a novelty firm, settled on a new contract with wage boosts of 7 cents an hour for time workers and 5 cents for piece workers. Several new job classifications were established, accompanied by increases of 15 cents an hour.

Vacations were improved to provide three weeks after 15 years' service, and an additional half holiday with pay was won. The contract also calls for a sick and accident insurance plan which pays benefits of \$20 a week for 13 weeks and also provides life insurance of \$1,000.

Leone and Int'l Rep. John Fiandaca

led the negotiating committee, which included '585A' Pres. Albert Shea, Vice-Pres. James Muise, Sec.-Treas. Joseph Barrasso, Recording Sec. Rose Wike, Angle Giorlando, Rose Solomita, Gloria Raggucci and William Trickett.

At the New Can Co. in Malden, more than 50 employees won wage increases of 6 cents an hour effective Jan. 2 of this year, as well as vacation improvements calling for 92 hours' pay after 6 years of service and 128 hours after 15 years on the job. On a 40-hour basis this means that after 6 years an employee receives 2 weeks and one and a half day's vacation, while 15-year employees get 3 weeks and one day.

Other improvements were a reduction in eligibility requirements for holiday pay to 30 days on the job, adjustment of bonus rates for press operators and putting the new federal wage minimum of \$1 an hour into effect as of Jan. 2 of this year.

Union negotiators were led by Int'l Rep. Fiandaca and included Joseph Cinotta, Helen Rideout, Alfred Capra, Fred Hellumuth and May Fielding. The same meeting which ratified the contract settlement, Leone said, also saw the installation of officers recently elected to head Local 588. These are Pres. Ruth Rusek, Vice-Pres. Richard Thompson, Sec.-Treas. Mary Fielding, Recording Sec. Theodora Gaetano and Chief Steward Alfred Capra.

## N.Y.C. Labor Bodies Readying Merger

First steps have been taken toward a merger of the Central Trades and Labor Council and the New York City CIO Council, representing a total of more than 1,000,000 New York trade union members.

Five-man merger committees have been set up by the two city labor groups. The committees are expected to have their first joint meeting within two weeks.

In moving to join, the two units are carrying out a mandate of the recently merged American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations. The convention that set up the united labor movement set a two-year deadline on the merger of local labor bodies.

AFL committee members are Martin Lacey, Moe Rosen, Jeremiah P. Sullivan, Arthur L. Harekham and John J. DeLury. CIO members are Joseph Curran, Patrick McGrath, Paul Jennings, Matthew Guinan and Morris Iushewitz.

## Drug Local Aids Mississippi Negro Victim

NEW YORK CITY—A \$5,000 check to aid a victim of Mississippi White Citizens Council was presented to Dr. T.R.M. Howard of Mound Bayou, Miss., by Leon J. Davis, president of Retail Drug Local 1199, at the union's annual Negro History Week Celebration on Sunday evening, Feb. 12.

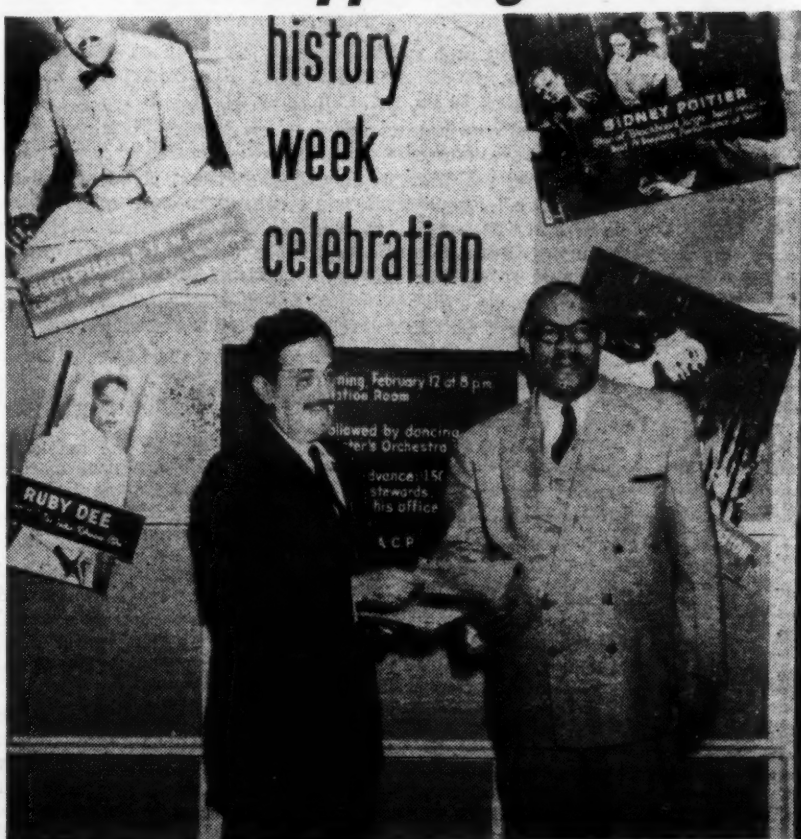
Five-hundred members overflowed the union's headquarters for the affair, and many heard the addresses and dramatic presentation through a loudspeaker outside the main hall.

The check will be forwarded as a loan to R.L. Drew, an undertaker at Clarksdale, Miss. As chairman of the Clarksdale branch of the NAACP, Drew was active in petitioning the local school board to end segregation in the Clarksdale public schools. As a result the local bank cancelled the \$3,000 loan on his home.

### Hope for Chain Reaction

A joint statement by Dr. Howard and Davis declared: "Although this action by Local 1199 will not solve the urgent economic problems confronting thousands of Negroes in the South who dare to stand up and speak out for their rights as free Americans, we hope that it will start a chain reaction among hundreds of other trade unions to meet the economic pressures by the White Citizens Councils."

Dr. Howard was the guest speaker at the union's program, which included an original dramatic-musical presentation titled "What Can You Say to Mississippi," written and directed by Ossie Davis and starring Sidney Poitier, Ruby Dee, Merwin Williams and John Fleming.



\$5,000 LOAN to victim of White Citizens Council in Mississippi is presented by Local 1199 Pres. Leon Davis, left, to Dr. T.R.M. Howard for transmission to R.L. Drew of Clarksdale, Miss. They stand before display announcing '1199' Negro History Week celebration.



## 265 Ohioans Gain In New Pacts; Organize New Shop

COLUMBUS, O.—Contract settlements affecting some 265 members of Local 379 were reported by Int'l Rep. Gene Ingles last week. Among them are three separate agreements with units of United Dairy, and a City Ice & Fuel Co. settlement.

The 140 United Dairy workers, members of three Local 379 units in southern Ohio and West Virginia, won wage increases of 5 cents an hour retroactive to Jan. 1, a company-paid health and life insurance plan costing approximately \$11 a month for each employee, and improvements in paid holidays.

Some other gains were additional wage increases in several classifications and \$5 weekly increases in base pay for the route salesmen in the Parkersburg, W. Va., Athens, Waterford and Pomeroy, Ohio plants. They now are guaranteed \$60 a week, in addition to commissions.

Those serving on the negotiating committee were Clem Parsons, Ed Wells and Howard Wright at the Barnesville, O. plant, and Joe Flemming, Dale Pile, Gerald Burris and Berl Stringer at Waterford. In Wheeling, W. Va., and Wellsburg, O., the committee was led by Regional Dir. Gerald Hughes and Int'l Rep. Charles Hess, and included Thomas Spears, Owen Myers, Victor Witzberger, Ralph Wiggins, Don Churchman and Carl Genter.

The City Ice & Fuel Co. workers won a two-year contract with increases of 5 cents an hour in each of the years—1956 and '57,—and an added 5 cents an hour for the engineering department in 1957. The settlement, which covers a year round average of 125 employees, also provides three-week vacations after 15 years' service and for the first time, a vacation program for seasonal employees.

Ingles, who assisted the rank and file negotiating committee, said an important accomplishment was unifying the previous four agreements into one overall contract, which will strengthen the plant considerably, he pointed out. The committee consisted of Chairman Lloyd Sargent, Unit Chairman John Nessor, Charles Keister and Lando Moore.

### Sign Wholesale Grocery

MT. VERNON, O.—A new shop was organized in Local 379 when the employees of a small but growing wholesale grocery here signed up. The group includes warehouse and distributive employees, and Int'l Rep. Ingles said, all it took was a one-session negotiation to get the first contract. The firm is Kelser-Dowds Wholesale Grocery Co.

In addition to the typical working conditions and job security provisions of other '379' contracts, the workers won wage increases ranging from \$18 to \$60 a month. Other gains were a hospitalization and doctor care insurance plan whose costs are shared equally by employer and employees, paid vacations and six paid holidays. Unit Chairman Manford Butler and Ingles represented the shop at the negotiations.



Parsons



Spears



Flemming



Nessor



Sargent

# 50 Out of 60 Sign With RWDSU In Ohio Organizing Comeback

SPRINGFIELD, O.—After two years the employees of the Hugo Bosca Co., are going to try again to bring the union into their plant. Two years ago they tried and failed to organize themselves, but 50 of the 60 employees have signed RWDSU cards for the second round, Int'l Rep. Ed Rosenhahn reported, and they have every intention of making a clean sweep of the NLRB election to be held Feb. 20.

The key issue among employees is an unfair incentive system which, ironically, was responsible for their failure to organize two years ago and is an important reason for their organization today.

During the last organizing campaign the employer was able to convince the employees, who handle leather goods, that he would voluntarily improve the production unit system. Two years later he still had failed to keep this promise as well as others, Rosenhahn said, and the workers determined to organize.

### Incentive System Cheats Workers

As it is now practiced, the incentive system provides bonus pay only if production is over a certain number of units on every working day of the week. If a workers falls below the quota on one day, he loses the entire week's bonus earnings.

The current campaign was begun when District Director Ray Ross, of the United Auto Workers, whose headquarters are in this city, learned of the Bosca workers' desire to organize and contacted RWDSU in Columbus. Rosenhahn said Ross had been of great help throughout the campaign, and is also arranging for the use of the Auto Workers' union hall for Bosca employees' meetings.

A leaflet issued last week points up another important issue among the Bosca employees. In it the plant organizing committee describes a program which will bring "working conditions which will promote dignity and respect" for the employees. This phrase expresses the resentment and anger of the workers at the arrogance of the employer, who frequently insults the employees both individually and collectively.

### 5c Raise Here and There

In another kind of tactic to stave off organization, the employer has landed out a five-cent hourly raise here and there among the workers, about a third of whom earn less than \$1 an hour. But the employees know that on March 1 the employer will have to raise wages to at least \$1 an hour to comply with the new federal minimum wage law, and that only a union contract will win them the really substantial increases they need and deserve.

### Labor Man Wins Pa. Election

PITTSBURGH, Pa.—David J. Smith, Republican candidate for a vacant seat in Congress, predicted on January 23 that the election on January 24 would be a "sharp awakening for the labor barons" who supported his opponent. The Republican was right; it was a "sharp awakening." Republican Smith was defeated by an overwhelming margin—nearly four to one—by State Senator Elmer J. Holland, an AFL-CIO official. Holland was presumably one of the "labor barons."

## The Midwest



FIRST RETIREMENT in Local 21, Huntington, W. Va. is marked by presentation of gift on behalf of local to Harry Wright, r., who is retiring at 71 after 33 years of service with Heiner's Bakery, 19 years of union membership. Local 21 Vice-President Clarence Akers hands over gift to charter member Wright.

## 1800 at Post Cereal Win Hikes Of 6-7 Cents in Wage Review

BATTLE CREEK, Mich.—About 1,800 members of Local 374 employed in the big Post Cereals plant have received rate increases retroactive to last Nov. 14 as the result of a wage review provided in the contract concluded last year, Pres. Forest Powers reported.

Purpose of the review was to keep Post Cereal employees' wages at the same comparative level as other industries in the area as they were on Nov. 11, 1954, which is the effective date of the current contract. The contract runs to Nov. 14.

Employees working on an hourly basis alone received increases of 7 cents an hour, while incentive employees received wage boosts of 6 cents an hour. These gains are in addition to average hourly increases of 7 cents last year.

The local also re-elected its top officers in balloting last month and named three new candidates to other posts. The officers are Pres. Forrest Powers, Vice-Pres. Vernon Burrill and Sec.-Treas. Patrick O'Connell, all re-elected, and Trustee Marvin Crotser, Board Member-at-Large Lester Williams and Sgt.-at-Arms Burley Plunkett, newly elected.

Others, whose posts come up for election next June, include Trustee William Lett; Board Members at Large, Traverse Fruin; Top Committeeman, Food Processing, Fred Messner; Top Committeeman, Maintenance, James Eastwood; Top Committeeman, C&C, Abe Van Dyke; Senior Time Study Man, Harry Hamblin, and Junior Time Study Man, Max Engel.

### This Is Eye Care Month For Chi Joint Board

CHICAGO, Ill.—February is "Eye Care Month" for members of the RWDSU Joint Board of this city, when members and their families are urged to visit the Union Eye Care Center at 343 So. Dearborn St. for thorough examinations without cost, Joint Board Pres. Henry Anderson announced.

The Union Eye Care Center is maintained cooperatively by several AFL-CIO unions in the city, and various eye specialists are on hand to treat members for eye conditions and prescribe glasses.

The first of a series of leaflets promoting the eye health campaign points out that many ailments in addition to those of the eyes may be discovered by an ophthalmologist—a medical eye expert—by examining the eyes alone.



DRAWING UP DEMANDS in first membership meeting after union's election victory Jan. 21 are these members of National Tile Employees Local 462, Anderson, Ind. Standing at left in rear is Int'l Rep. Joseph Romer. Seated in front row left are newly-elected officers: l. to r., Trustee Ray Wilson, Rec. Sec. Eliza Harris, Fin. Sec. Betty Dotson, Vice Pres. Lester Graham, Trustee Ray Abscher, Pres. Franklin Martin and Trustee Norman Reesman. Contract talks with National Tile Co. are under way.



## The South

# First RWDSU Pact for 150 at N. C. Bakery

CHARLOTTE, N. C.—A general wage increase of 7½ cents an hour and other substantial gains were scored in the first RWDSU contract to be signed with the American Baking Co., for its plant here, Int'l Rep. Irving Lebold reported. The agreement, covering 150 employees, was negotiated during the past two months, following the overwhelming victory of RWDSU Local 28 in an NLRB election Dec. 6.

The firm, whose products are sold under the Merita label in the South and as Taystee Bread in the North, had offered 5 and then 6 cents an hour increases, both of which were rejected. The agreement providing the acceptable figure of 7½ cents was signed Feb. 10, and was retroactive to Feb. 5.

Lebold pointed out that most of the workers had received a 5-cent increase during the past six months, thus bringing wage boosts received since the union drive began up to a total of 12½ cents. Hiring minimum rates in the bakery range from \$1.05 to \$1.49 an hour, with most of the workers earning substantially more than the minimum rates.

### Additional Gains

Other contract terms include a guaranteed 40-hour work week, with an understanding that there will be no cut in overtime work; five hours call-in pay; two rest periods a day; five paid holidays; two weeks paid vacation; seniority and grievance machinery, with arbitration of disputes on discharges and demotions; maternity benefits; dues check-off; and other benefits.

Plant stewards include Bill Griffith, Elliot Martin, Carl Brazzwell, William L. Brown and J. Blueth. They served on the negotiating committee, together with Robert Nelson, Ray Long, Monroe Funderbeck, Clyde Keel, Robert King and Louie Perry, aided by Local 28 Pres. Charlton Morrow, Lebold and Regional Dir. Frank Parker, who came in from Birmingham to assist in the contract talks.

## 14-19c Raises at Va. Peanut Plant

SUFFOLK, Va.—In the first of a series of contract negotiations with the big peanut plants in this city, the members of Local 26 working at Parker Peanut won a settlement providing wage increases of 19 cents an hour for women employees and 14 cents for the men, Pres. Leroy Harris reported.

The talks were set against the background of the new federal minimum wage of \$1 an hour, which becomes effective March 1. It was pointed out that Local 26, as part of the RWDSU, was in the forefront of the fight for the higher minimum wage, and sent a large delegation to the RWDSU's Minimum Wage Mobilization in Washington last April.

Labor's activity in the campaign to raise the former 75-cent minimum played a key role in bringing about the higher wage minimum over the Republican Administration's objections to anything higher than 90 cents an hour.

Negotiations at Parker started Jan. 15, and after three sessions the company agreed to top its first offer of 10 to 11-cent increases. The resulting agreement brought wage rates for women up to \$1 an hour with weekly increases of \$7.60. The men won new rates of \$1.04 an hour and an additional cent an hour next Jan. 1. Several more skilled workers won new hourly rates of \$1.06 now and \$1.07 next Jan. 1. Weekly increases for the men amounted to \$5.60.

### 115 at Parker Meeting

Of 122 Parker employees, 115 turned out for the membership meeting which ratified the settlement unanimously. The negotiating committee was led by Harris, Int'l Rep. Henry Hamilton and Vice-Pres. Al Bailey, with Shop Chair-lady Frances Perry, and Stewards John Parker, Mary Rollins and Henry Holmes.

Harris said negotiations have already started at Suffolk Peanut and the newly organized Pretlow Peanut plant is near by Franklin, Va. Plans are to establish the same or better rates at these plants, and then to open talks with the Lummis Co. and the big Planter's Nut & Chocolate Co.



ALABAMA NEGOTIATORS of W. T. Grant Birmingham store contract are, l. to r., Enola Sweeten, Cleo Engro, Local 436 Pres. Vivian Smith, store manager B. U. Grubbs, Estelle Shelton, Edith Spitzer and Essie Creel.

## \$1-\$3 Raises at W. T. Grant

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—The W. T. Grant variety store contracts, covering the firm's Birmingham and Gadsden, Ala. stores, have been renewed, Regional Dir. Frank Parker reported. The new contracts provide for wage increases of \$1 to \$3 a week.

As a result of the negotiations, several improvements in working conditions were agreed to by the company, Parker said. Both contracts were unanimously ratified.

The committee representing the union at the Birmingham store was composed of Enola Sweeten, Cleo Engro, Essie Creel, Edith Spitzer, Estelle Shelton and Local 436 Pres. Vivian Smith, assisted by Int'l Rep. William Langston and

Regional Dir. Parker.

Representing the Union in the Gadsden negotiations were Willie Mae Bowen, Bertha Sims, Mrs. Meers and Red Ausage, assisted by Int'l Rep. Lester Bet-tice and Parker. A. V. Federler, Jr., William Lockett and William Steadman represented the W. T. Grant Co. in both of these negotiations, along with the respective store managers.

## Salesmen Settle In Tuscaloosa

TUSCALOOSA, Ala.—Newly-organized route salesmen of Hardin's Bakery won their first union contract this month and gained \$2 a week wage increases, as well as other benefits, it was reported by Regional Dir. Frank Parker. The pact was unanimously ratified by the 25 routemen at a membership meeting.

Also won in the agreement were five paid holidays, one to three weeks vacation, seniority rights, grievance machinery including arbitration, a guarantee in case of a cut in routes, sick pay and other gains.

The new contract will expire July 9th of this year. This term was agreed upon so that the expiration would coincide with that of the contract covering the production, maintenance, shipping and cleaning employees, who have been members of RWDSU Local 405 for several years.

The organization of the route men into Local 405 completes the organization of this plant. The salesmen chose the RWDSU in an election held last month.

The contract was negotiated by a committee composed of Cecil Wilkins, Joe Reid, John Stallings and Local 405 Pres. Olan Waldrop, assisted by Int'l Rep. William Langston and Frank Parker, John D. McQueen, W. A. Henderson, owner and general manager, and Robert C. Roddy, assistant manager, represented the company.

## Canada

### Barlow Re-elected to OFL Board

LONDON, Ont.—George Barlow, RWDSU regional director for Eastern Canada, was re-elected to the executive board of the Ontario Federation of Labour, CCL, at the organization's 13th annual convention, held here Feb. 6, 7 and 8. Barlow, now serving his second term, polled more votes than any other board member.

### Sask. To Supply Free Salk Polio Vaccine

REGINA—Free Salk polio vaccine will be made available to all residents of the province as soon as it becomes available, according to the Speech from the Throne, announcing government legislative policy, at the opening of the fourth session of the 12th Saskatchewan Legislature.

The Speech also indicated that the program for the restoration of residents disabled by polio and other diseases would be continued by the government.

The delegates, including a substantial number of RWDSUers, heard OFL Pres. S. S. Hughes report that when the two Canadian federations merge in April, almost half of the one million members of the new Canadian Labour Congress will be in Ontario. Merger talks are well under way between leaders of the two provincial bodies, Hughes said, and joint meetings have been held to plan action on unemployment and other problems.

## Canadian Labor Names Dept. Heads

OTTAWA, Ont.—The Joint Unity Committee working out details of the merger of the Canadian Congress of Labor and the Trades & Labor Congress of Canada has announced agreement on the heads of departments within the new Canadian Labor Congress. The million-member CLC will be formally established at a merger convention in Toronto beginning April 23.

Norman S. Dowd of the CCL and Arthur Hemming of the TLC will serve as co-executive secretaries of the new labor body. Dowd, editor of the CCL's Canadian Unionist, will be editor of the CLC's official magazine, to be called Canadian Labour. The monthly newspaper will be the CLC News.

### Other department heads:

Organization—Joe MacKenzie, CCL organization director and former Canadian director of the Auto Workers.

Education—Max Swerdlow, TLC organization and education director.

Research—Dr. Eugene Forsey, CCL research director.

Legislative—Leslie Wismer, TLC public relations and research director and formerly a Cooperative Commonwealth Federation member of the Ontario Parliament.

Political education—Henry Welsbach, director of the CCL Political Action Committee. Provincial federations and labor councils—Tom Ward, TLC political education director. Public relations—Jack Williams, CCL public relations director.

## RWDSU Places High In Winnipeg Cribbage Tourney

WINNIPEG, Man. — The Winter Olympics at Cortina D'Ampezzo, Italy, ran a poor second in capturing public sports interest here, at least among members of CCL unions in the Greater Winnipeg area. Their attention was focused exclusively on a cribbage tournament held Jan. 28 in the Union Building on Winnipeg's Main Street.

Gordon Ritchie, business agent of the RWDSU's Manitoba Joint Council, reported that though there were less broken records and fractured bones than in the Olympics, the cribbage tournament was nevertheless fraught with excitement and scored a tremendous success.

RWDSU members scored a triumph in the tourney, walking off with the lion's share of the prizes, Ritchie said.

Among those who won prizes were Albert Mestdagh and Buddy Goodchild of Dairy Workers Local 755, who took first place in the doubles competition. S. Korinetz and J. Gould of Ashdown's Wholesale Employees Local 468 won second prize in the same competition. R. Armitage and R. Dougherty of Christie Brown's Employees Local 650 received second prize in the doubles consolation event. A. Deacon of Local 467's Winnipeg Casket unit won first prize in the singles consolation competition.

With that kind of record, the Winnipeg RWDSUers are ready to field an all-star team in 1960 if the Olympics committee should decide to include cribbage as either a summer or winter sport. They are not worried about Soviet competition, apparently.



## feature Section

what

is

COPE

● **What Is COPE?** The letters COPE stand for Committee on Political Education, the committee of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations to advance and promote the general welfare of America by political education and political activity.

As stated in the AFL-CIO Constitution, COPE has the task "of encouraging workers to register and vote, to exercise their full rights and responsibilities of citizenship and to perform their rightful part in the political life of the city, state, and national communities."

COPE is made up of local and state committees of AFL-CIO members, and a national committee consisting of the AFL-CIO Executive Council, George Meany, chairman.

● **Why Is the AFL-CIO in Politics?** The AFL-CIO fights to secure a better standard of living for American working men and women and their children. Its unions fight for better wages and working conditions.

But the gains won at the bargaining table can be whittled down or wiped out by decisions of Congress, a state legislature, or a city council. That is where the small but powerful core of reactionary business groups is attempting to kill labor's efforts to achieve greater welfare and security.

To protect and enlarge our gains on the economic front, we must also fight on the political front. In the complicated world of today the two cannot be separated.

COPE is the means through which AFL-CIO members exert their collective strength to obtain good government—good officials acting under good laws. It seeks to inform union members and their neighbors about the issues and the candidates for public office and to organize them so they can act upon this information.

● **How Does COPE Work?** COPE reports the facts about issues and candidates. It closely follows the voting records of our elected officials. It helps to educate AFL-

CIO members so that they will vote and vote intelligently.

COPE workers carry on registration drives and try to get out the vote on election day so that the result will be a decision of the true majority of the people.

● **What Is the COPE Program?** The AFL-CIO stands for world peace founded on justice, freedom and security. To secure such a peace, America must be strong and prosperous. Our country must be free from economic and social injustice, and racial or any other type of discrimination. The AFL-CIO stands for full employment based on an economy in which our increasing productivity is matched by increasing consumer purchasing power.

It stands for the re-establishment of sound and fair labor relations, for better education, housing, social security, unemployment insurance and workmen's compensation.

It stands for an equal distribution of the tax burden, the protection of our natural resources, adequate health services, fair treatment of immigrants, and the extension of civil rights and civil liberties to all our citizens.

● **Is COPE a Political Party?** COPE is not a political party. The resolution on political action passed unanimously by the first AFL-CIO Constitutional Convention states: "We reaffirm organized labor's traditional policy of avoiding entangling alliances with any other group and of supporting worthy candidates regardless of party affiliation." The Convention also called for voting records to be placed in the home of every AFL-CIO member.

COPE cooperates as broadly as possible with other groups who have the same ideals and aims as our organization. It will work with all citizens of good will who have the same ideals.

COPE funds come from the voluntary contributions of AFL-CIO members. Of every dollar contributed to COPE, half is used by local and state Committees on Political Education, the other half is used by national COPE to aid worthy candidates for national offices.

*At right is a sample receipt from a Dollar for COPE book. A supply of books for RWDSU locals was received at the International office as this issue of The Record went to press. Sufficient books to permit every member to make a contribution to COPE will soon be mailed to RWDSU locals.*

Nº 188391		Nº 188391	
This is to Certify That			
1956		1956	
COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL EDUCATION		COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL EDUCATION	
A. F. L. C. I. O.		A. F. L. C. I. O.	
515 15TH STREET, N. W.		515 15TH STREET, N. W.	
WASHINGTON, D. C.		WASHINGTON, D. C.	
CO-DIRECTOR		CO-DIRECTOR	
AMOUNT		AMOUNT	
\$1.00		\$1.00	
CO-DIRECTOR		CO-DIRECTOR	



# polio vaccine

## Further Research Improves Vaccine's Effectiveness

*This article was prepared in consultation with Dr. Harold Aaron, Medical Consultant to District 65 Security Plan.*

The polio season is several months away, but now is the time for children and expectant mothers to begin getting their shots of Salk polio vaccine. Experience in the U.S., Canada and other countries shows that unvaccinated children are from two to five times more likely to get paralysis from polio than children who get vaccinated with one or more shots of Salk vaccine.

Dr. Salk and other experts recommend that children from age 6 months through age 14 and pregnant women get two injections about four to six weeks apart and a third and final injection seven months later. But even a single injection provides considerable protection. After a series of three injections, protection against paralysis from polio lasts at least a year and probably two or more years.

The second and third booster doses of Salk vaccine may be given even during the summer months, when the polio season is at a peak. There is no evidence that such injections will provoke an attack of polio. However, authorities advise against injections at any time that a person is suffering from an acute illness.

### Salk Discovery Helps Prevent Paralysis

The Salk vaccine does not prevent the polio virus from invading the body. But it does help prevent the virus from causing paralysis or injury to the nervous system. The vaccine is not 100% effective; it provides from 60 to 90% effectiveness depending mainly on the number of injections given. But the effectiveness of the vaccine is being increased by research, and it will probably not be long before it will be close to 100% effective in preventing paralysis.

Many people were disturbed last year by reports that certain batches of the Salk vaccine contained live virus that caused paralysis in some of the children who were vaccinated with these batches. Since May 27, 1955, however, all vaccine is made with new safety checks. According to the Technical Committee of Poliomyelitis Vaccine of the U. S. Public Health

Service, "... the principal factors which were involved in manufacturing difficulties have been identified and corrective measures have been taken." The new safety tests "assure the safety of released vaccine and should make possible an increased availability of vaccine."

The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis (March of Dimes) has finished providing free vaccine for first and second year school children. Now it is up to the states, local health departments and private physicians to provide protection to as many children and expectant mothers as possible.

### Still Insufficient Vaccine for All Needs

The question arises: Will there be enough vaccine available to protect children from 6 months through age 14, and expectant mothers? Although manufacturing problems have been straightened out in the last 6 months, there will not be enough vaccine on hand to provide three injections in 1956 for all children from 6 months through 14 years. N.Y. State has urged that all children between five and nine—the most susceptible age group—receive two injections this year before any other age groups are treated. The second priority group—six months to five years of age—should be immunized next with at least one and preferably two shots. The third priority group—children aged 9 through 14 and expectant mothers—are also urged to obtain one or two injections. Priorities for shots, however, will vary from state to state and even in communities within each state. In some states all persons under 20 as well as expectant mothers will be eligible for vaccination this year.

President Eisenhower and Congress appropriated 30 million dollars in 1955 for Salk vaccine to be made available to children under 20 and to expectant mothers, regardless of means. Unfortunately, this amount is insufficient to insure that all children under 20 and all expectant mothers will get the vaccine this year. The distribution of Federal vaccine and vaccine purchased by each state, is determined by each state's health authority. In N.Y. City, for example, government vaccine will be available without charge to children, from 6 months through 14. Some of these children will get their injections in school or at a health department clinic without any charge. Or the children may go to the offices of their private physicians where they may be charged a fee for the injection by the doctor but not for the vaccine, if the child is between 6 months and 15, and if sufficient government vaccine is available. For other age groups, vaccine will have to be obtained from a private doctor himself or from a drug supply store. The cost of the vaccine varies from \$1 to \$2 per shot. Private doctors are charging from \$2 to \$5 for each injection, except in H.I.P. where no charge is made for immunization procedures.

## Ballplayers Heading For a Real Union?

If you buy a ticket to any opening-day major league baseball game next April, hang onto the raincheck. You may need it.

Major league club owners, at their meeting in New York to consider demands of players, left no stone unturned toward creating conditions which would justify an all-out strike. True, it may not occur on opening day, but unless hasty amends are made a strike appears possible.

The two principal requests made by the players—an increase of minimum salary from \$6,000 to \$7,200 and the privilege of being kept informed on negotiations for World Series and All Star games, television and radio contracts—were given the same blunt brush-off they had received at the meeting of the National and American League club owners in Chicago last December.

Following the meeting here, Commissioner Ford Frick announced briefly: "The two leagues have again turned down the request of the players for an increase in the minimum salary and reaffirmed that the duty and responsibility of negotiating the sale of radio-television rights for World Series and All-Star games has been delegated to the commissioner."

The players, of course, contend that since 60 percent of the above revenue goes into the player's Pension Fund that they should at least be entitled to know what goes on around the negotiating tables when TV and radio rights, which are expected to amount to more than \$8,000,000 in the 1957-61 contract are sold.

The result of the meeting left the player representatives, Bobby Feller of the Cleveland Indians and Robin Roberts of the Philadelphia Phillies, stunned. They had expected at least some slight concession from the

owners, or at least some intelligent explanation outlining the reasons why the magnates had rejected the demands.

None of the players in the lobby of the hotel where the meeting was held would commit themselves to any comment for publication, but one high-ranking infielder of the New York Giants expressed the sentiments of many players in organized baseball when he made this remark:

"Well, they're asking for it. Since they're determined to continue treating us like a bunch of kids who aren't capable of handling our affairs, it's up to us to take the bit in our teeth."

Prior to the meeting J. Norman Lewis, attorney for the players, had said he "hoped the owners and Frick would not provoke the players to the point where they might become affiliated with the AFL-CIO." The owners, when informed that such a move was not only possible, but probable, merely laughed.

However, it can be reported that affiliation with AFL-CIO is exactly what many of the players have in mind. They realize they could tie up major league baseball completely by themselves if they went on strike, but some of the players feel that the moral support that would be forthcoming from AFL-CIO affiliation would go a long way toward gaining public sympathy.



Robin Roberts, Phillies star, represents players of National League in talks with owners. He was reported "stunned" by cold turnout of player demands.

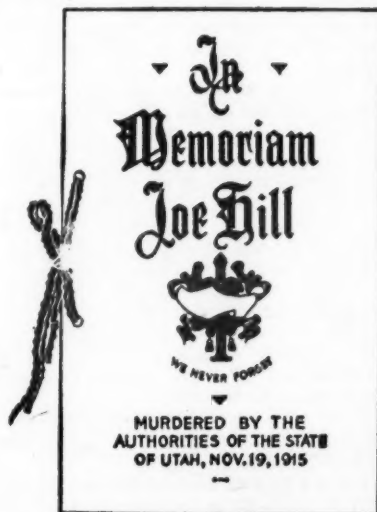


# JOE



# HILL

## 'The Man Who Never Died' - Labor Martyr



**T**oday the cry, "Organize the Unorganized" is being flung out across the land in the wake of the AFL-CIO merger.

Yet to most trade unionists, one of the most dramatic trade union organizers in American history is largely an unknown. To others his name—Joe Hill—is recalled only in a song: the man who "never died"—but "lives wherever workers organize."

To many unionists who have sung or heard this song, Joe Hill is still a question mark. Was Joe Hill a real person or was he just a character in song or myth, they may ask. Was he like Paul Bunyan or John Henry or Johnny Appleseed?

Joe Hill was a real person, once "alive as you and me" as the song goes. He was a workingman, an organizer and a poet. He wrote many of our most popular labor songs of today. He was the legendary martyr of the labor movement of his day, executed in 1915 for a crime which the labor movement said he could not possibly have committed.

There are several reasons why Joe Hill remain relatively unknown. For one, he was not a member of the AFL but the more radical Industrial Workers of the World (IWW). However, the AFL did rally to his defense and in convention passed resolutions in support of him.

Another reason why Joe Hill is not a un-

ion household name is that the Communist Party in this country "adopted" him and tried to make the cause for which he fought the same as their cause. As a consequence, he became less and less popular in legitimate trade union circles.

All this is starting to change now; Joe Hill's name is heard more. At the final CIO convention in New York, Walter Reuther and Joe Glazer, educational director of the Rubber Workers and singing troubadour of the labor movement, led the convention in singing the song, "Joe Hill."

Another reason why Joe Hill is coming back into his place in labor history must be credited to a young playwright, Barrie Stavis. Stavis, whose reputation as both a writer and a playwright is rising, spent five devoted years making a study of Joe Hill, his life, his causes and the man himself. From town to town he went, just as Joe Hill has done 40 or 50 years ago. He picked up information, pictures and other data which had been completely unknown or forgotten.

"Joe Hill is one of the most dramatic characters in American history," Stavis said. "He dramatizes an era, a belief of which there is too little recorded today."

Stavis' book, "The Man Who Never Died," is now off the presses. It is in two parts. The first contains many hitherto unpublished letters and documents dealing with Joe Hill's life and court trial. The second part is the play which captures the full drama of the unionist's life. The play has already been put on by Hamline University Theatre in St. Paul, Minn.

Walter Reuther has said of the book:

"The American labor movement was built by men who were willing to sacrifice material gain, personal comforts, even their lives for the cause. One who demonstrated his willingness was Joe Hill. Barrie Stavis has performed an important service by gathering facts about Joe Hill's life, including his trial, conviction, and death on a trumped-up murder charge, and putting them together in an exciting book, 'The Man Who Never Died.'"

For probably the first time in history, Stavis brings out the true story of Joe Hill and the documents to go with it. He colorfully details the facts which led to Hill's arrest on Jan. 13, 1914 in Salt Lake City and his execution two years later.

With all this the author could say emphatically that "Joe Hill was framed" for the murder of a grocer and his son. He could make us feel the cause of Joe Hill which was embraced by hundreds of thousands of people at the time.

More importantly, he made you understand Joe Hill himself. He was a simple man whose life was spent at hard physical labor and for trade unionism. But he could write simple, expressive songs which were and have been sung by many unionists: "The Rebel Girl," "The Preacher and the Slave," "Casey Jones," and many more.

His defenders say this is why Joe Hill was tried for murder: He was labor's poet. President Wilson intervened twice to save him. So did the Swedish Government. The 35th annual convention of the AFL unanimously adopted a resolution asking that he be given a new and fair trial. A mass meeting of 30,000 Australian workers asked that Joe Hill be freed or they would boycott American goods.

When Joe Hill's body was brought to Chicago, following his execution, some 30,000 people marched in a procession. One reporter wrote: "What kind of man is this whose death is celebrated with songs of revolt and who has at his bier more mourners than any prince or potentate?"

This kind of man is described by Stavis as he moves Joe Hill from legend to reality and back to the American labor movement.

—By Harry Conn for Press Associates, PAI

"The Man Who Never Died" was written by Barrie Stavis, right, whose previous works include "Lamp at Midnight" and other plays, books and articles. Copies of the book, which sells for \$3, may be obtained from the publisher, Haven Press, 545 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.







Plaque from International Cooperation Administration, a division of the U.S. State Dept., praises RWDSU's District 65 in New York for playing host to visiting foreign delegations.

## 'Showplace of American Labor'

# U.S. Hails '65' Role as Host To Foreign Delegations

The proud boast of members of District 65 in New York that their modern 11-story headquarters is "the showplace of American labor," has received substantial support from the United States Government. The U. S. Labor Dept. and the State Dept.'s International Cooperation Administration both operate programs in which delegations from various foreign countries are invited to tour the U. S., visiting American unions and studying their ways. During the past year, no less than 11 such delegations, on the recommendation of the two U. S. departments, have made one of their key stops the '65' Center at 13 Astor Place, New York City.

They've come from such diverse places as Iceland, Mexico, New Zealand, Australia, Japan, Great Britain, France, Austria, Cuba, Honduras, and British Guiana. All have expressed their pleasure as well as amazement, at the District's many facilities, such as the big Consumer Service, which is the union's own department store; the Pharmacy, the Credit Union; the bar and restaurant; the several ballrooms, the many meeting rooms; the big administrative departments; the recreational activities—all designed to welcome members' participation, and succeeding in that design.

Considering all the many countries they came from, you might say the visiting trade unionists' agreement that "We've seen nothing like this anywhere we've traveled," is universal.

Last month the International Cooperation Administration presented '65' with a beautifully framed scroll which certifies, over the seal of the U. S. Government, "that under the program of the International Cooperation Administration of the Government of the United States of America, in cooperation with other governments, District 65, RWDSU, AFL-CIO, made significant contribution to the achievement of the purposes of this program by furnishing technical assistance to selected representatives of the co-operating countries."

A letter from the Labor Dept. extended to District 65 "our sincere thanks and grateful appreciation for your assistance in support of our program, and for the many courtesies extended to our foreign trade union visitors."



From Iceland came this group of government, labor and business delegates, with the '65' Center in New York an important stopover. '65' Recreation Dir. Sol Molofsky, L., explains operation of union's Hiring Hall to visitors.

## MOVIES

in review

### THE GOLDEN DEMON—★★★★

Moviegoers who have been thrilled by the exquisite beauty and artistry of such films from Japan as "Rashomon" and "Gate of Hell" have another treat in store for them. It is "Golden Demon", currently playing at the Guild Theater in New York and the first film of modern Japanese life to be shown in this country.

The picture is based on the book of the same name, one of the best known literary works ever to appear in Japan. Its emergence, at the turn of the century, had a tremendous impact on the Japanese people because it was the first literary work ever to portray flesh and blood human beings, with all their faults and weaknesses, in contrast to the idealized treatment of people in traditional Japanese literature.



Miss Yamamoto

Presented on the screen in breathtakingly beautiful Eastman color, it tells the story of the tragedies that befall peoples' lives when they are possessed by the Golden Demon, the lust for money. A young girl, played by Fujiko Yamamoto, is persuaded by her parents to reject her true love for a man of wealth, and too late realizes her mistake. Her sweetheart, in bitterness and frustration, sets out to avenge himself by amassing money. He becomes a loan shark, the cruellest and most hated in all Tokyo, and exchanges his happy student days for a life of loneliness and shame.

While the plot is a familiar one, and the acting at times a little over-dramatic, this picture will provide you with an emotional experience rarely enjoyed in a moving-picture theater. Its sheer beauty and excitement will go beyond your greatest expectations and once you have seen the Golden Demon, you will want to see it again and again.

—LOUISE REVERBY

### THE BOTTOM OF THE BOTTLE—★★

This is a modern western where the horses ride behind the Cadillacs in trailers and take over only when the road gets too rough. "The Bottom of the Bottle" takes the question "Am I my brother's keeper", dresses it up in Cinemascope and Arizona scenery, and comes up with a big nothing.

Joseph Cotten, rich, successful lawyer, with a beautiful home and wife to match, is the kind of man who likes to be called by his initials (insecure, that's what he is). Van Johnson is the skeleton in his closet, the kid brother who killed a man during a drunken brawl and is serving a prison term because his lawyer brother did not want to sully his good reputation by defending him. When the brother escapes from prison and comes to Cotten for help, again the big man doesn't want to become involved. There is an eternity of talk as the two rehash over and over again who is responsible for what, with the good wife siding with the convict in his appeal for help.



Joseph Cotten

Surrounding them are a group of flashily dressed couples who flit across the screen from time to time, and always with a half-filled glass in the hand, regardless of the time of day. Towards the end there is the big reconciliation scene between the brothers, and you are supposed to be feeling that warm glow, in the warm glow area.

In spite of the shallow treatment of the film, Van Johnson turns in a most believable characterization, proving once again that his charm boy days are gone. He is particularly effective in one scene, where he pleads for a drink in a roadside joint, where it is against the law to sell liquor before a certain hour.

As a travelogue on Arizona, 'taint bad.

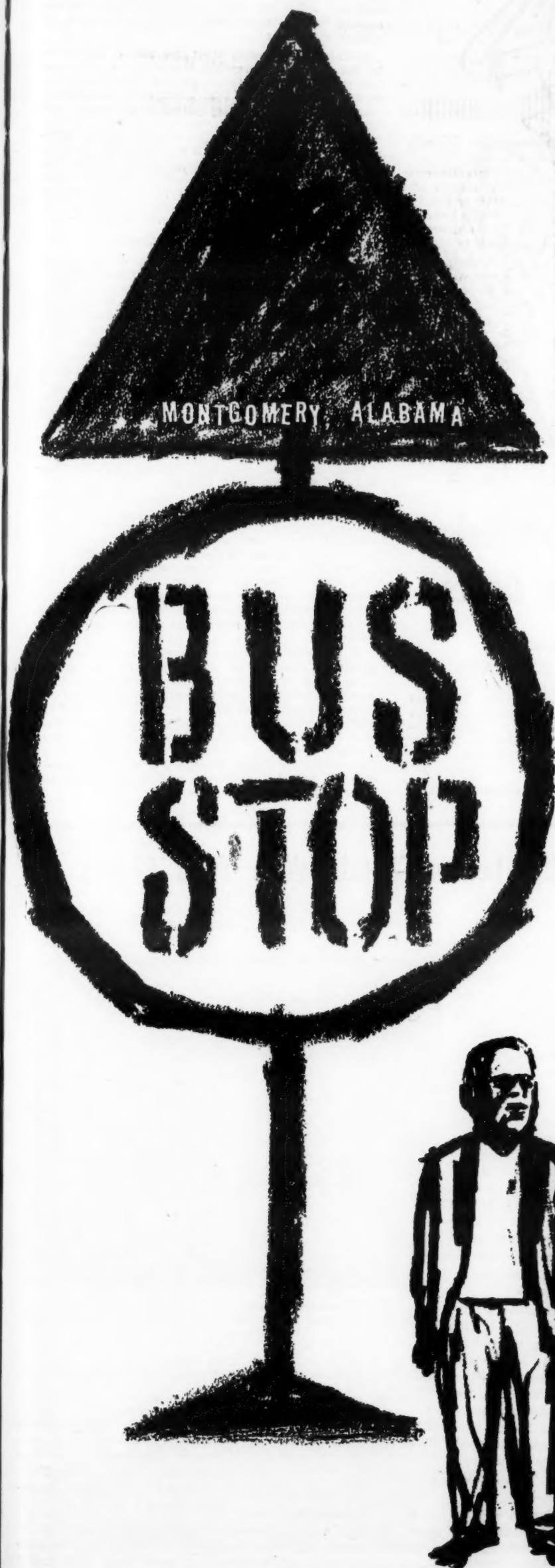
—BEA ECKSTEIN

### RECORD MOVIE RATING

★★★★	★★★	★★
Golden Demon	I'll Cry Tomorrow	Bottom of the Bottle
Hill 24 Doesn't Answer	The Little Outlaw	Helen of Troy
The Man With The Golden Arm	The Rose Tattoo	The Lieutenant Wore Skirts
Umberto D	The Prisoner	Artists & Models
Oklahoma	Kismet	The Indian Fighter
Guys and Dolls	I Am A Camera	Man With The Gun
	Diabolique	Ransom
	The Court Jester	Forever Darling
		The Second Greatest Sex
		★
		The Lone Ranger

rwdsu RECORD





**T**HIS MONTH the U.S. celebrates the birthdays of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, and marks the period from Feb. 19 to 26 as Brotherhood Week.

This is an appropriate time to recall that it was Washington who said: "To bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance." And Lincoln, when he was asked about the "Know-Nothings", the racists and hate-mongers of a hundred years ago, replied:

"As a nation, we began by declaring that 'all men are created equal.' When the Know-Nothings get control, it will read 'all men are created equal except Negroes, foreigners and Catholics.' When it comes to this, I shall prefer emigrating to some country where they make no pretense of loving liberty—to Russia, for instance, where despotism can be taken pure, without the base alloy of hypocrisy."

Though we've come a long way toward brotherhood during the past hundred years, there's still a long way to go before it's achieved. In Montgomery, Alabama, for instance, several thousand Negro citizens are engaged right now in a struggle to win—by their own determined efforts—courteous, fair and decent treatment when they use the city's buses. This is their story.

## Negroes Boycott Jim Crow Buses

# They Do Not Walk Alone

By HARRY GERSH

For JLC Labor Reports

Some day they'll put up a plaque on a bus stop in Montgomery, Alabama, to thousands of tired feet—and thousands of uplifted hearts.

At this writing, the strike of the Negro citizens of Montgomery against the Montgomery City Bus Lines, Inc., is entering its ninth week, with no sign of breaking. And the ache in the treasury is far more painful to the bus company's owners than the blisters on the feet of strikers.

This flaming up of the human spirit came about like most such small revolutions—when finally one person among many, all wearing the same old injustice like a spiked collar, says "enough, no more." And in Montgomery this one quiet resolution touched fire in a thousand waiting hearts.

It started last December. Mrs. Rosa Parks, a seamstress in a downtown Montgomery department store, got on a bus, paid her 10c fare and took an empty seat. Several blocks further along the route some white Alabamians got on and paid the same 10c fare. The bus driver demanded that Mrs. Parks vacate her seat so a white rider could take it. But Mrs. Parks remembered that her dime had on it the same portrait of Liberty that graced the white rider's dime. She refused to give up her seat. The police and the City Court soon straightened her out. Mrs. Parks was fined.

But freedom and right are a virus more infectious than the plague, and there is no serum that will hold them down permanently. So, on December 5 the Negro citizens of Montgomery stopped riding the buses.

It was a joke at first to the big boys downtown, but the situation soon lost its humor. A majority of the bus company's customers are Negro and this majority hasn't dropped its dimes into the company's coin boxes since December 5. The company cut services by a third and demanded a 50% increase in fares.

But it didn't help. The infection is widespread and deeply rooted in Montgomery.

We don't know how it will turn out. The Negro community's demands for ending the no-riding strike are revolutionary. They want: greater courtesy to all customers on the part of the drivers; employment of Negro drivers on buses serving predominantly Negro areas; first-come first-served seating on the buses.

But no matter how it turns out, a monument is indicated. Things will never be the same in any Jim Crow public transit company in the country. And from now on every time a driver or conductor tries to enforce a Jim Crow regulation, he'll hesitate for a moment and wonder, "Is this the time?"

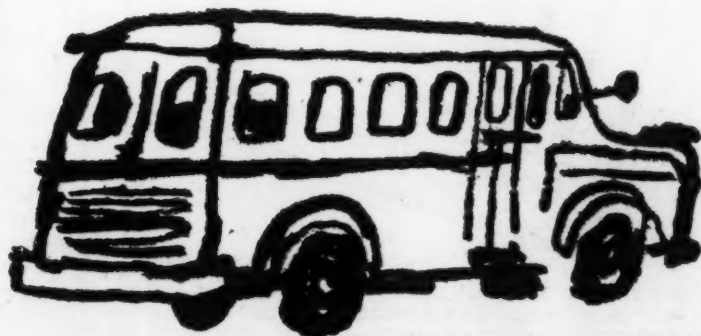


Illustration by Stanley Glaubach



**M**any families are deep in debt as the result of the heavy installment-buying of the last two years, and some now are more than just in debt—they're in real trouble.

"We owe close to \$2,000 in bills and most have reached the judgment stage," a woman reader writes. "My husband even has a second part-time job but it doesn't help. We have a lot of small bills and only a few big ones but they are all demanding payment at once. I consulted a financial expert and he recommended bankruptcy, but we would lose everything we are trying so hard to save. The only solution would be a loan of the full \$2,000, but who would lend us that much with no security? We don't own our own home, we just pay rent. All we have is our furniture and a 1950 Olds. If we could pay these bills and just have one big bill, we could swing it at \$50 or \$60 a month. But again we come up against the problem of security and our credit rating, which has hit rock bottom in our six years of marriage.

"Here is a list of our monthly expenses and income: Rent, \$75; Food, \$80; Utilities, \$9.36; Gas Heat, \$20; Car Payments, \$36. Total, \$220.36. My husband's take-home pay is about \$300 a month and he also earns \$40 a month on a part-time job. Deducting our expenses this leaves us about \$119 balance. If we paid \$30 a month on a loan, it would leave us \$59 for clothing and emergencies. We have three small children, ages five, four and four months. My husband and I are both 24. Believe me, we need help desperately."

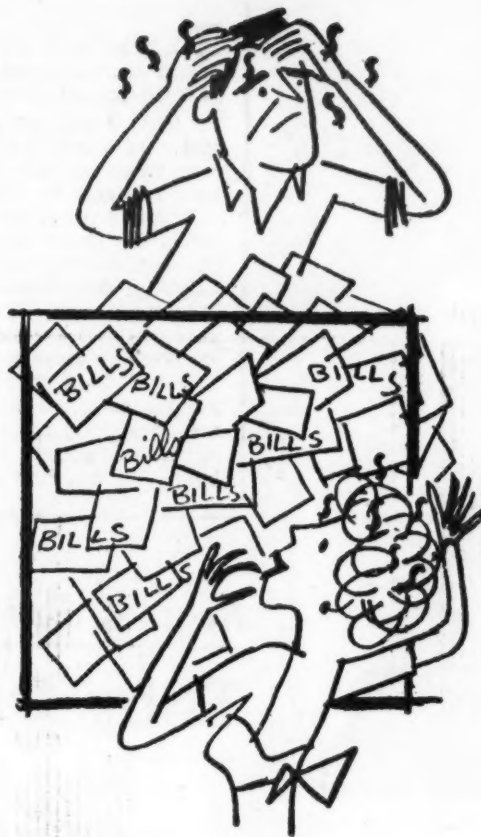
#### Problems of a Family

This young family naturally wanted to have what are considered the normal accessories of modern living—a car, TV set and similar equipment. But they bought on time, as most people do, instead of budgeting and accumulating the cash first. The resulting drain of income to pay finance charges on these installment purchases and loans has sunk the family deeper into debt.

They can get help in re-establishing themselves. But they must avoid the "consolidation loan" offered by small loan companies, and also debt counselors. Their fees would sink the family further into debt, among other disadvantages. Here are the various recommended alternatives:

1—The family can go to a family service agency and ask it to intervene with creditors. Many agencies do this at no fee. They will help the family work out a budget for basic needs, and then arrange with creditors to accept so much a month on the balance. They will also try—or should—to get creditors to accept a reduction in interest fees while the debt is being paid off, or accept a reduction in the amount owed. This is vital, because when you extend the period of repayment, the finance charges pyramid.

Most of the large religious denominations have their own family agencies, and you can either look them



## Where to Get Help To Clear Up Debts

By SIDNEY MARGOLIUS

Consumer Expert for The Record

up in the phone book or ask a clergyman. There are also many non-sectarian family agencies. You can look them up in the phone book under "family service," or ask the Red Feather organization in your town (the United Fund), or your union local, for referral to a family service agency.

One family agency reports, "As a rule we find cred-

itors willing to carry the client for some months without payment, or reduce the payment. The difficulty arises where the debts were consolidated through a finance company, which insists that payments be made on time or re-financed again at high carrying charges." (You see why this department advises against "consolidation loans" widely advertised by finance companies.)

2—Legal Aid societies often give similar assistance. In fact, such cases comprised 30 per cent of their work last year. Where a local Legal Aid office does have facilities for giving this help, it will work out arrangements with creditors for extending payments, and sometimes will aid in securing court trusteeships (see below). If the Legal Aid office does not handle bankruptcy or trusteeship cases, it will refer the family to a committee of the Bar Association set up for this purpose. You can get the address of the local Legal Aid office from the phone book or your city welfare department, or by writing to National Legal Aid Association, 328 Main St. E., Rochester 4, N.Y.

#### Assistance Through Courts

3—A debt-ridden family can seek court help in staying off creditors, either under Chapter XIII of the Federal bankruptcy law, or under state laws establishing debtor trusteeships. Under Chapter XIII or various state laws, a debtor who does not want to go into bankruptcy can apply for protection against wage garnishment or repossession of his property. The court is given exclusive jurisdiction over the debtor and his property. It appoints a trustee to budget the family's needs and turn the excess over to the creditors. The advantage of seeking the protection of the court is that creditors are forced to accept extended payments. Disadvantage is that you will have expenses, even if you get Legal Aid help. Costs under Chapter XIII may run as much as \$200 or more, although under some state laws, costs of a court trusteeship will be much lower, and even nominal.

4—This family can try for a loan from a commercial bank or credit union if it belongs to one, and pay off the creditors. They will have to pay the bank or credit union interest fees, of between 7 and 12 per cent, but not the 24 per cent or more they would have to pay a small-loan company. Even though the family's credit rating looks low at this point, they still may be able to get a bank loan since the husband is working and has taken on another job to pay debts, which the bank will evaluate as a sign of good character.

If the family tries to work out their own extended payments, they should seek a reduction in interest rates from their creditors, or a settlement for a smaller amount. Actually installment stores and loan companies sometimes do this. They realize used furniture has little resale value. They will be most anxious to secure full payment of the principal, and more inclined to waive or reduce the interest, and it's important for the family to get the interest and penalty charges waived, because this additional cost is what's keeping it bogged down in debt.

## This Crochet Pattern Free!



**CROCHET IN THE MODERN MOOD**—The simplicity of contemporary decor is represented in this striking rug and its companion pillow. Featuring a modern, asymmetrical design, both pieces are done in bold stripes of white cotton blended with non-tarnishing gold metallic yarn and contrasting bands of turquoise and black. The ensemble is equally effective in any tri-color scheme of your choice. Full crocheting instructions for making THE MODERN RUG AND PILLOW, Leaflet No. 115.9, may be obtained from the Needlework Department of The Record, 132 West 43 St., New York 36, N.Y. Please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your request.

## 'Fish-Up' Lenten Treats With Tuna Dishes

By DOROTHY MADDOX

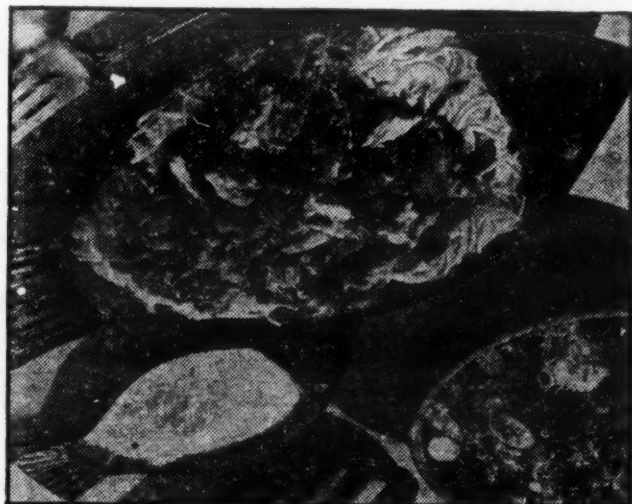
Canned tuna has many interesting uses. In our house, we like it just "as is," served on a platter garnished with lettuce and lemon slices.

It is delicious, also, in a casserole with olives. Simply combine a can of condensed mushroom soup and one of condensed celery soup in a casserole and add a quarter of a can of milk to two cans of soup. Then add tuna, drained of oil. Also add lemon juice to taste and a small jar of small, pimento-stuffed olives (drained). Bake in moderate oven (325 degrees F.) about 30 minutes. Serve with rice.

#### Spaghetti With Tuna Sauce (4-6 servings)

Three tablespoons fat, 1 small clove garlic, minced; ½ cup finely diced onions, ½ cup finely diced celery, two 8-ounce cans tomato sauce, 1 teaspoon kitchen bouquet, ½ cup water, ½ teaspoon salt, ¼ teaspoon pepper, ½ teaspoon oregano, 2 cups sliced carrots, 1 pound spaghetti, cooked; ½ cup slivered green pepper, 7-ounce can tuna fish, 1 tablespoon minced parsley.

Melt fat in saucepan. Add garlic, onion and celery. Cook over moderate heat for 5 minutes, stirring frequently. Add contents of cans of tomato sauce, kitchen



Spaghetti with tuna sauce goes swimmingly on the Lenten menu. Serve with a tossed salad. Parmesan cheese goes well on this tuna-spaghetti dish.

bouquet, water, salt, pepper. When sauce is of the desired sugar, oregano and carrots (sliced thickness, add green pepper, diagonally, about ¼-inch thick). parsley and tuna, which has been drained and coarsely flaked, and let simmer about 5 minutes longer.

Lower heat and let simmer until of the designed consistency, about 15 to 20 minutes longer. Drain spaghetti, arrange on platter. Top with spaghetti in serving platter. Meanwhile, cook spaghetti in boiling, salted water until barely tender (about 10 to 12 minutes). Parmesan cheese.



# lighter side of the record

## Ticklers

By George



"She enjoys this part of the ceremony! She's a member of a temperance society!"



"Just name one thing that your office workers can do that our IBM machines can't do better!"

## Double Standards



EVERY DOCTOR TAKES THE HIPPOCRATIC OATH TO GIVE HIS ALL FOR MANKIND...

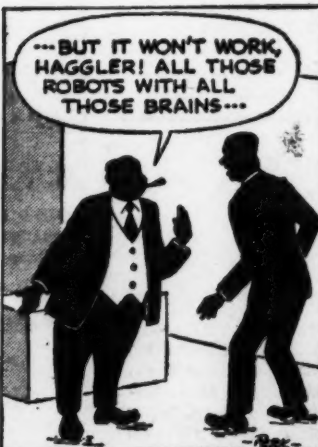
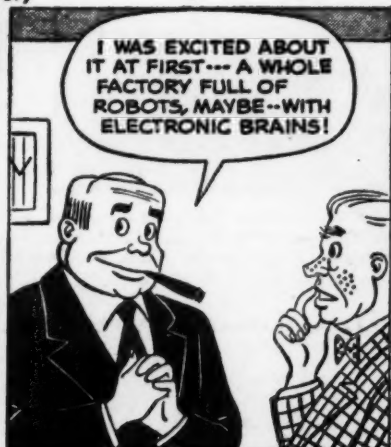


## DAFFYNITIONS



## "UNION MAID" —A Serial Story

—By Bill Perkins







**GERALDINE ZISA** of Local 405, New Jersey, works at Devon-sheer Melba Corp. She's 21, weighs 102, is 5'2" tall, blonde, and measures 34½-23½-34½.

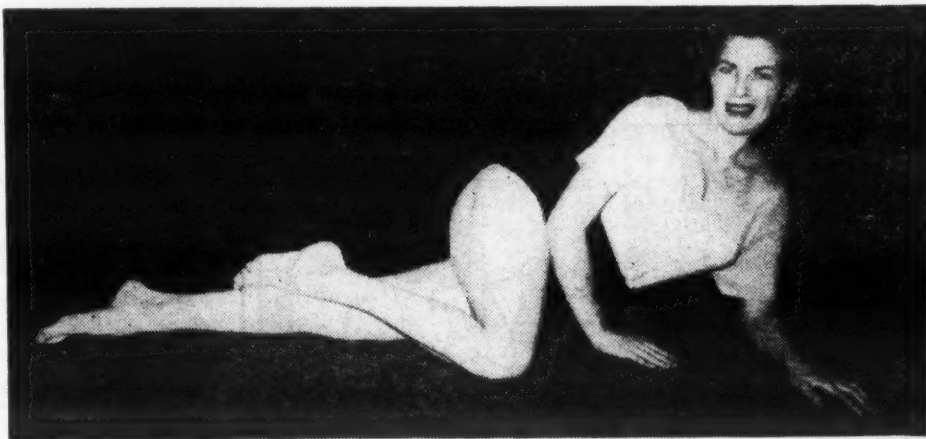
## 'Union Queen' Entries

Here's another batch of beautiful RWDSU members vying for the title of 'Union Queen'. This is the last group of entrants whose pictures will be printed before the finals, since the closing date for entries was Feb. 14.

Here's how the winner will be selected: During the next four weeks, the editors of The Record, aided by a competent and well-known impartial authority, will select the five finalists. Their pictures will be printed in the March 18 issue of The Record, together with a ballot which every RWDSU member will be urged to use in voting for his or her favorite. As soon as the tabulation of ballots is completed, the winner will be announced.

And what a host of prizes await the Union Queen! In addition to gifts of clothes, jewelry, etc., she'll make personal appearances on leading television programs originating in New York, enjoy a stay at a leading resort and perhaps start off on the road to fame and fortune! And there will be prizes for the runners-up too.

Remember to look for your ballot in the March 18 issue of The Record and vote for your choice as 'Union Queen'.



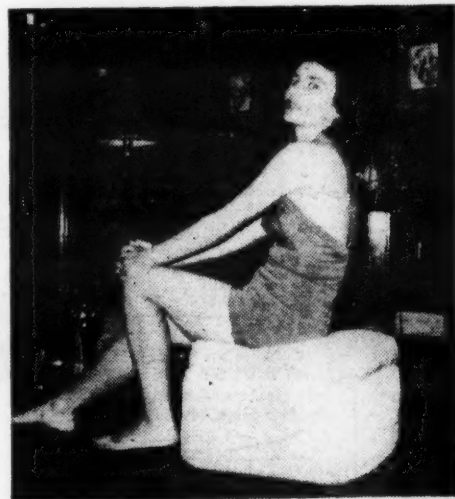
**BLANCHE MANDELMAN**, a member of District 65, now lives in Hyattsville, Md. She's 28, a brunette, weighs 135, is 5'6" tall and registers 37-26-37 in bust, waist and hip measurements.



**PRISCILLA M. BROWN**, a member of Local 260, is manager of Cushman bakery store in N.Y.C. She's 28, has black hair and brown eyes, is 5'6" tall, weighs 125, and measures 34-25-36.



**LOIS MILSOP** of Paterson, N.J. is a member of Local 260, employed by Cushman's bakery. She has blue eyes, brown hair, is 5'8½" tall, weighs 126, and measures 34-24-34.



**HELEN BELL LECHIM** of Kansas City, Kan. works at Sunshine Biscuit Co., is a member of Local 184-L. She's 28, has black hair, brown eyes, weighs 112, is 5'2", tapes 32-24-33.



**BARBARA BERKOWITZ** of District 65, New York, is a stenotypist at A. Cohen & Sons Corp. She's 17, weighs 135, is 5'5" tall, has brown hair and green eyes, and measures 38-26-38.